

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless local area network comprising:
an access point connected to a local area network, the access point configured for providing a plurality of WTRUs with wireless access to the local area network;
the wireless local area network configured for broadcasting a beacon frame including handover information for handing WTRUs over from the wireless local area network to available alternative systems; and
wherein geographic coverage areas of the available alternative systems overlap a geographic coverage area of the wireless local area network.
2. The wireless local area network of claim 1 wherein the handover information includes information related to network type.
3. The wireless local area network of claim 1 wherein the handover information includes information related to network identity.
4. The wireless local area network of claim 1 wherein the handover information includes cell information for cells surrounding the cell serviced by the access point.
5. The wireless local area network of claim 1 wherein the handover information includes information related to the types of services offered by an available alternative system.
6. The wireless local area network of claim 1 wherein at least one of the available alternative technologies is a PLMN.

7. The wireless local area network of claim 1 wherein at least one of the available alternative technologies is another wireless local area network.

8. The wireless local area network of claim 1 wherein the wireless local area network is an 802.11b network.

9. A method for handing over a WTRU from a wireless local area network to an available alternative system comprising:

broadcasting handover information in a beacon frame;

determining systems that are of interest to a user of the WTRU;

determining which alternative systems are available by reading the handover information in the beacon frame;

retrieving cell information regarding available alternative systems from the handover information in the beacon frame;

selecting an available system that is of interest to the user;

performing coverage and quality of service measurements on the selected system; and

handing the user over to the selected available system where the measurements are sufficient.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of selecting an available system that is of interest to the user further includes comparing available systems with systems that are of interest to the user.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the handover information includes information related to network type.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the handover information includes information related to network identity.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the handover information includes cell information for cells surrounding the cell serviced by the access point.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein the handover information includes information related to the types of services offered by an available alternative system.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of the available alternative technologies is a PLMN.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of the available alternative technologies is another wireless local area network.

17. The method of claim 9 wherein the wireless local area network is an 802.11b network.

18. A method for handing over a WTRU from a wireless local area network to an available alternative system comprising:

broadcasting handover information in a beacon frame;

reading the handover information to determine whether alternative systems are available for handover;

retrieving cell information regarding the available alternative systems that are of interest from the beacon frame;

determining whether the WTRU is capable of supporting the available alternative systems;

selecting an available system that is of interest and the WTRU is capable of supporting;

performing coverage and quality of service measurements on the selected system; and

handing over to the selected available system where the measurements are sufficient.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the handover information includes information related to network type.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the handover information includes information related to network identity.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein the handover information includes cell information for cells surrounding the cell serviced by the access point.

22. The method of claim 18 wherein the handover information includes information related to the types of services offered by an available alternative system.

23. The method of claim 18 wherein at least one of the available alternative technologies is a PLMN.

24. The method of claim 18 wherein at least one of the available alternative technologies is another wireless local area network.

25. The method of claim 18 wherein the wireless local area network is an 802.11b network.